

Dear Medora

with author Sydney Stevens

Child of Oysterville's Forgotten Years

Acres of oysters in Shoalwater Bay brought the first settlers to what would later be known as Oysterville in the late 1850's. The first settlers were men seeking their fortunes by shipping oysters to California during the San Francisco gold rush.

Oysterville became a busy community and was named the county seat for Pacific County. The seemingly unlimited supply of oysters dwindled over the next forty years and as a result the town suffered. Most of Oysterville's population left leaving behind a few families who enjoyed living a simpler life.

In 1902, toddler Medora Espy moved with her parents to the quiet town of Oysterville which was past its heyday. Throughout her short life Medora was separated at times from her parents. This was due to activities such as the birth of a sibling, her father's senatorial duties in Olympia, and her attendance at Portland Academy. Medora met an untimely death at the age of seventeen. Diary entries and letters exchanged between young Medora and her family, especially her mother, are collected in Sydney Stevens' latest book. Sydney is a niece of Medora.

Join us as we learn about the early 20th century as seen through the eyes of young Medora Espy.

Medora

**Thursday, November 29, 2007
12:10 to 1:00pm**

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6880 Capitol Boulevard South, Tumwater
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